

## THE GATHERING



# THREE WAYS YOUR CHURCH CAN SUPPORT RETURNING CITIZENS

ReSart  
ReCover

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The Gathering is located in a large community where 40% of Butler County's state ex-offenders live.

Approximately 75% of our church's congregation and/or family members have served prison or jail time.

In the midst of this stress-filled community of ex-offenders, God's presence is working through The Gathering to provide a hand up, not just a handout, so those affected by incarceration can become more stable through their own efforts. Our **ReStart** and **ReCover** programs bring hope, help, and healing to all who have been busted, broken, and belittled by family, friends, and their community.

While many churches encourage re-entry, The Gathering is called to **FACILITATE** re-entry. But we can't do it alone. There are three primary ways you and your church can support and assist *re-turning* citizens through The Gathering's ministries:

### 1. COME JOIN US AS SERVANTS.

We offer varying levels of opportunity for both Individuals and groups to be positive role models of faith and action. Our current servant needs are listed in order of the commitment required:

- ❑ **PRAYER PARTNERS** pray for our Re-Entry Ministry. It is important that our providers and participants know people are praying weekly for them. Contact Stefanie Cain to sign up as a prayer partner: [scain.umcgathering@gmail.com](mailto:scain.umcgathering@gmail.com).
- ❑ **HOSPITALITY HELPERS** provide snack items for 50 people on a bimonthly basis to create a welcoming, supportive environment for our ReStart and ReCover participants. Contact Randell Clark at [randellclark@gmail.com](mailto:randellclark@gmail.com) to serve.
- ❑ **SUNDAY HOSTS** provide and serve a community meal to approximately 100 of our weekly guests following Sunday worship. To sign up your group of four or more for a one-time or regular commitment, contact Angel Polley at 513-217-5131.
- ❑ **VAN DRIVERS** use our van to help our returning citizens access re-entry programs, resources, meetings, and appointments at The Gathering and in Butler County. Weekly 1-4 hour commitment. Contact Tim Cain at [caintj883@gmail.com](mailto:caintj883@gmail.com).
- ❑ **RECOVER RESPONDERS** are individuals and couples who know recovery processes come around families needing prayer, direction, or advocacy. Longer-term commitment on an as-needed basis. Contact Durke Donelson at [durke@umcgathering.com](mailto:durke@umcgathering.com).
- ❑ **RECOVER MENTORS** who are recovered for two years co-facilitate weekly Celebrate Recovery meetings in the Butler County Jail or a weekly recovery step study for ex-offenders at The Gathering. Weekly, ongoing commitment. Contact Durke Donelson at [durke@umcgathering.com](mailto:durke@umcgathering.com).

### 2. SUPPORT US FINANCIALLY.

Your financial support advances your church's passion for, and our capability to support, those affected by incarceration:

- ❑ **BE AN "ALL IN" COMMUNITY.** Clean, friendly, well-equipped facilities are essential to providing effective re-entry ministries. Your "all In" budget line item commitment of \$5,000 ensures that God's presence is known and felt through a place of blessing.

- ❑ **DISLODGE THE TRANSPORTATION TRAFFIC JAM.** A yearly donation of \$3,000 ensures those affected by incarceration have access to the transportation resources they need for successful re-integration.
- ❑ **GIVE KIDS A GOOD START.** A \$1,500 donation feeds the minds, bodies, and spirits of our children for a year through our Sunday morning Good Start breakfast program.
- ❑ **PROMOTE RECOVERY.** \$1,000 supports our Celebrate Recovery groups for offenders in the Butler County Jail and The Gathering.
- ❑ **SPONSOR SMALL GROUPS.** Small group fellowship, field trips, and mentoring moments that impact successful re-entry can be fully funded with an annual \$500 donation.
- ❑ **BRING BETTER BEGINNINGS.** \$40 buys a loaded backpack, including new shoes and hygiene products, for kids in our back-to-school *Backpacks 4 Better Beginnings* program.

### 3. TRAIN UP YOUR CHURCH.

Become better equipped to respond with love, grace, and appropriate assistance through our re-entry **Lunch & Learns** and **Re-Entry Roundtable** discussions.

Learn about the role, value, and power of a faith community in helping to re-shape broken lives for returning citizens.

Visit the **Lunch & Learn** page from the “Make A Difference” tab on our Website ([www.umcgathering.com](http://www.umcgathering.com)) for more details about upcoming **Lunch & Learn** opportunities.

### A HEARTFELT THANK YOU!

Your partnership is vital to the growth and impact of our work with those affected by incarceration. Your service adds honor and glory to the work of the Church as we bring the love of Christ to all. Thank you for all that your organization does on behalf of returning citizens.



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*A United Methodist Community*

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**513-217-5131 • [www.umcgathering.com](http://www.umcgathering.com)**